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Letter dated 5 March 2003 from the Permanent Representatives of France, Germany and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

We would like to bring to the attention of the members of the Security Council the joint statement by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of France, Mr. de Villepin, Russia, Mr. Ivanov and Germany, Mr. Fischer, adopted in Paris on 5 March 2003.

We should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Sig l*) Jean-Marc **de la Sablière**
Permanent Representative of France

(*Signed*) Gunter **Pleuger**
Permanent Representative of Germany

(*Signed*) Sergey **Lavrov**
Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation

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Annex to the letter dated 5 March 2003 from the Permanent Representatives of France, Germany and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Joint statement by Mr. de Villepin, Mr. Ivanov and Mr. Fischer (Paris, 5 March 2003)

Our common objective remains the full and effective disarmament of Iraq, in compliance with resolution 1441 (2002).

We consider that this objective can be achieved by the peaceful means of the inspections.

We moreover observe that these inspections are producing increasing encouraging results:

– The destruction of the Al-Samoud missiles has started and is making progress;

– Iraqis are providing biological and chemical information;

– The interviews with Iraqi scientists are continuing.

Russia, Germany and France resolutely support Messrs. Blix and El-Baradei and consider the meeting of the Security Council on 7 March to be an important step in the process put in place.

We firmly call for the Iraqi authorities to cooperate more actively with the inspectors to fully disarm their country. These inspections cannot continue indefinitely.

We consequently ask that the inspections now be speeded up, in keeping with the proposals put forward in the memorandum submitted to the Security Council by our three countries. We must:

– Specify and prioritize the remaining issues, programme by programme;

– Establish, for each point, detailed timelines.

Using this method, the inspectors have to present without any delay their work programme accompanied by regular progress reports to the Security Council. This programme could provide for a meeting clause to enable the Council to evaluate the overall results of this process.

In these circumstances, we will not let a proposed resolution pass that would authorize the use of force.

Russia and France, as permanent members of the Security Council, will assume all their responsibilities on this point.

We are at a turning point. Since our goal is the peaceful and full disarmament of Iraq, we have today the chance to obtain through peaceful means a comprehensive settlement for the Middle East, starting with a move forward in the peace process, by:

- Publishing and implementing the roadmap;
- Putting together a general framework for the Middle East, based on stability and security, renunciation of force, arms control and trust-building measures.